

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 71-88, 90-99, 101-102, 116, 119, 121-125 and 136; amend claims 100, 118, 120 and 126-135, and add new claims 137-142 as follows. A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers follows. The changes in these claims from their immediate prior version are shown with strikethrough for deleted matter and underlines for added matter.

Listing of Claims:

1-99. (Canceled)

100. (Currently amended) A chewing gum composition comprising:

- a) a gum base;
- b) a sweetener;
- c) a flavor; and
- d) an effective amount of an antimicrobial agent wherein the

antimicrobial agent comprises cardamom oil and wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present from about 0.01% to about 1.0% by weight of the chewing gum composition and wherein the chewing gum composition is formulated to deliver at least 0.005% concentration of cardamom oil to the oral cavity when the product is chewed.

101-102. (Canceled)

103. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present from about 0.01% to about 0.25% by weight of the chewing gum composition.

104. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising a food acceptable zinc or copper salt of an acid selected from the group consisting of gluconic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid, and citric acid; and combinations thereof.

105. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising pyrophosphate or polyphosphate.

106. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein said cardamom oil is encapsulated.

107. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein said cardamom oil is spray dried.

108. (Previously presented) A coated chewing gum product made from the composition of claim 100.

109. (Previously presented) The product of claim 108 wherein said cardamom oil is present in said coating.

110. (Previously presented) The product of claim 108 wherein said cardamom oil is encapsulated.

111. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising a high intensity sweetener selected from the group consisting of, sucralose, aspartame, NAPM derivatives such as neotame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizinate, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, and combinations thereof.

112. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising a medicament.

113. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 112, wherein the medicament comprises an oral cleansing or breath freshening compound selected from the group consisting of a pH control agent, inorganic components for tartar or caries control, a breath freshening agent, an anti-plaque/anti-gingivitis agent, a saliva stimulating agent, a pharmaceutical agent, a nutraceutical agent, a vitamin, a mineral and combinations thereof.

114. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising an active agent.

115. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising a cooling agent selected from the group consisting of menthol, ethyl p-menthane carboxamide, N,2,3 - trimethyl-2-isopryl-butanamide, menthyl glutarate FEMA 4006, menthyl succinate, menthol PG carbonate, menthol EG carbonate, menthyl lactate, menthone glyceryl ketal, menthol glyceryl ether, N-tert-butyl-p-menthane-3-carboxamide, p-menthane-3-carboxylic acid glycerol ester, methyl-2-isopryl-bicyclo (2.2.1), heptane-2-carboxamide, menthol methyl ether and combinations thereof.

116. (Canceled)

117. (Previously presented) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 further comprising an oral health ingredient.

118. (Currently amended) A confectionery product pressed tablet comprising:

- a) a sweetener;
- b) a flavor; and
- c) an effective amount of an antimicrobial agent wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises cardamom oil and wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present from about 0.01% to about 3.0% by weight of the pressed tablet and wherein the pressed tablet is formulated to deliver at least 0.005% concentration of cardamom oil to the oral cavity when the pressed tablet is consumed.

119. (Canceled)

120. (Currently amended) The ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 wherein said cardamom oil is present in an amount from about 0.01% to about 1% by weight of the ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet.

121-125. (Canceled)

126. (Currently amended) The ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 wherein the ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet further comprises inorganic components for tartar or caries control selected from the group consisting of phosphates and fluorides.

127. (Currently amended) The ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 further comprising a breath freshening agent comprising zinc gluconate.

128. (Currently amended) The ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 further comprising an antiplaque/anti-gingivitis agent selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine, cetylpyrimidinechloride (CPC) and triclosan.

129. (Currently amended) The ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 further comprising a saliva stimulating agent comprising a food acid.

130. (Currently amended) The ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet of claim 129 wherein the food acid is selected from the group consisting of citric, lactic, maleic, succinic, ascorbic, adipic, fumaric, tartaric and combinations thereof.

131. (Currently amended) The ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 wherein the flavor comprises a material selected from the group consisting of essential oils, synthetic flavors, fruit essences, anise, flavor oils with germ killing properties and mixtures thereof.

132. (Currently amended) The ~~composition~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 wherein the flavor is selected from the group consisting of citrus oil, spearmint oil, mint oil, clove oil, oil of wintergreen and combinations thereof.

133. (Currently amended) The ~~composition~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 wherein the flavor comprises a flavor oil with germ killing properties selected from the group consisting of menthol, eucalyptol, thymol and combinations thereof.

134. (Currently amended) The ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 wherein the product delivers at least about 0.1% by weight cardamom oil to the oral cavity.

135. (Currently amended) The ~~confectionery product~~ pressed tablet of claim 118 wherein the product delivers at least about 0.01% by weight cardamom oil to the oral cavity.

136. (Canceled)

137. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein the flavor comprises a non-mint flavor.

138. (New) The chewing gum composition of claim 100 wherein the flavor comprises a fruit flavor.

139. (New) The pressed tablet of claim 118 wherein the flavor comprises a non-mint flavor.

140. (New) The pressed tablet of claim 118 wherein the flavor comprises a fruit flavor.

141. (New) A coated chewing gum product made from a chewing gum composition formed into a piece shape and coated by a coating, wherein the chewing gum composition comprises:

- a) a gum base;
- b) a sweetener;
- c) a non-mint flavor; and
- d) an effective amount of an antimicrobial agent wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises cardamom oil and wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present from about 0.01% to about 1.0% by weight of the chewing gum composition and wherein the chewing gum composition is formulated to deliver at least 0.005% concentration of cardamom oil to the oral cavity when the product is chewed.

142. (New) A coated chewing gum product made from a chewing gum composition formed into a piece shape and coated by a coating, wherein the chewing gum composition comprises:

- a) a gum base;
- b) a sweetener;
- c) a flavor, wherein the flavor comprises fruit flavor; and
- d) an effective amount of an antimicrobial agent wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises cardamom oil and wherein the amount of cardamom oil is present from about 0.01% to about 1.0% by weight of the chewing gum composition and wherein the chewing gum composition is formulated to deliver at

least 0.005% concentration of cardamom oil to the oral cavity when the product is chewed.